



June 18, 2014

The Honorable Ted W. Lieu
Chair, Senate Business, Professions, and Economic Development Committee
State Capitol, Room 2053
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 2198 – **Oppose**

Dear Senator Lieu:

At its June 17, 2014 meeting, the Board of Psychology (Board) took an **oppose** position on AB 2198 (Levine).

The Board's (Board) mission is to advance quality psychological services for Californians by ensuring ethical and legal practice and supporting the evolution of the profession.

The Board is aware that suicide is an extremely important topic that has touched the lives of many families in our State. The Board is committed to educating our licensees and the general public on this issue via various outreach and educational tools. The Board does not believe, however, that AB 2198 is the appropriate vehicle for achieving competence in this area.

Specifically the Board opposes the bill for the following reasons;

- The coursework and continuing education (CE) hours mandated in the bill will not help a licensee achieve competency in the area of suicide assessment, prevention, and training. The Board is concerned that attending a six hour course may provide a false sense of subject area mastery to a licensee.
- Suicide assessment, prevention, and training is currently integrated into the curriculum of most graduate training programs. Additionally, suicide assessment is a knowledge point tested in both the national and State examinations.
- The Board is opposed to CE courses being mandated by the legislature when the Board is better positioned to determine what areas of study will further the professional development of its licensees.

The Board has concerns that while well-intentioned, this bill will not achieve the intended goals of increasing competence in the important area of suicide prevention, assessment, and training.

If you would like to discuss the Board's position, please feel free to contact the Board's Administrative Coordinator, Jonathan Burke, at (916) 574-7137.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M Erickson".

MICHAEL ERICKSON, PH.D.
President, Board of Psychology

cc: Senator Mark Wyland (Vice Chair)

Senator Tom Berryhill

Senator Marty Block

Senator Ellen M. Corbett

Senator Cathleen Galgiani

Senator Ed Hernandez

Senator Jerry Hill

Senator Norma J. Torres

Board Members

Assembly Member Marc B. Levine

Tracy Rhine, Deputy Director, Legislative and Policy Review, Department of Consumer Affairs